their neighbours and relatives treated in the hospitals and dispensaries meant for providing better services to the employees of private sector;

(b) if so, whether medicines worth lakhs of rupees are being distributed unaccounted as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether employees are asked for ESI card in the event of accident of employee which is required to be submitted later on; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps being taken by Government to prevent such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL) : (a) and (b) The ESI Corporation takes appropriate action as and when taken such incidents are brought to the notice of the Corporation. As on date no such incident has been reported.

(c) and (d) The ESI Corporation issues an Identity Card to an insured person wherein his details as also those of his family members are indicated. The insured person and his family are given medical treatment on the basis of the Identity Card. In the event of an accident the insured person/family is rendered all medical assistance immediately. In order to prevent any irregularities, pasting of photograph of the insured person and his family members on the Identity Card has been made compulsory w.e.f. 1-4-2001.

Improvement in conditions of workers

2696. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the steps being taken by Government for improvement in conditions of workers facing adverse working situations; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken for elimination of evils of child labour and bonded labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The Government have formulated various schemes under existing Welfare Funds viz. (i) Beedi Workers Welfare Fund; (ii) Cine Workers Welfare Fund; (iii) Iron Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Welfare Fund; (iv) Lime Stone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund; and (v) Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund to provide social security and welfare measures like group insurance, medical care, education and housing facilities for the workers in these sectors. Recently, a social security scheme namely "Krishi

Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2001" has been launched in 50 selected districts of the country.

Various existing labour laws like the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, Inter-State Migrant Workmen (RE & CS) Act, 1979, The Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, and Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Cess Act, 1996 are applicable to the workers in unorganized sector. These Acts look after the interests of the workers in terms of wages, working hours, social security etc.

The Central Government has enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, which provides for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labours. The Act provides for setting up of Vigilance Committees at district and Sub-Divisional levels to monitor and review the incidence of bonded labour on a regular basis. In order to assist the State Government in their task of rehabilitation of released bonded labourers, the Central Government has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labour under which assistance up to the ceiling limit of Rs. 20,000 is given to each released bonded labourer.

Under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes. Employers employing children in occupations and processes prohibited under the Act are liable to be prosecuted. The Government of India has also been implementing two schemes, for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The major activity under the NCLP is running special schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. So far, 100 NCLPs have been sanctioned for coverage of 2.11 lakh children through 3962 centres in 13 child labour endemic states.

Unemployment rates among rural youths

2697. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: